

AMENDMENTIN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of program mapping telecommunication system features in a telecommunication system, comprising:

providing a local instrument in communication with a central programming controller and comprising a plurality of switches;

said central programming controller having a plurality of telecommunication system features, the central programming controller connecting the local instrument to an outside telephone network;

prompting a user at said local instrument using ~~at least one~~ a first audible prompt selected from one or more tones, beeps, buzzes, and voice prompts provided by the central controller to designate whether one of said plurality of switches is to be programmed;

receiving a first user input in response to ~~said at least one~~ the first audible prompt, said first user input designating whether one of said plurality of switches is to be programmed;

if one of said plurality of switches is to be programmed, temporarily deprogramming said plurality of switches and prompting a user at said local instrument using a second audible prompt selected from one or more tones, beeps, buzzes, and voice prompts provided by the central controller to select a one of said plurality of switches to be programmed;

receiving a second user input in response to said second audible prompt, said second user input designating a selected one of said plurality of switches to be programmed;

determining whether the selected one of said plurality of switches to be programmed is programmable;

if the selected one of said plurality of switches to be programmed is not programmable, indicating to the user that selected one of said plurality of switches to be programmed is not programmable;

if the selected one of said plurality of switches to be programmed is programmable, prompting a user at said local instrument using a third audible prompt selected from one or more tones, beeps, buzzes, and voice prompts provided by the central controller to select a one of said plurality of telecommunication features;

receiving a third user input in response to said third audible prompt, said third user input designating a selected one of said telecommunication features; and

storing data in a memory of the central programming controller in response to said third user input, said data mapping a the selected one of the plurality of telecommunication system features on the central programming controller to a the selected one of said plurality of switches on said local instrument.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

remotely locating the central programming controller and a user interface from the user, and

separating the central programming controller and the user interface from the user by a telecommunication connection.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

physically locating the central programming controller in the same cabinet as the at least one local instrument in a telecommunications system controlled by the central programming controller.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one local instrument is one of a telephone, a FAX, a computer, and a scanner.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the local switches include buttons on a telephone.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the switches are local switches including at least one contact sensitive region of an electronic display.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the switches further comprise at least one of steady lights, multicolored light, and lights blinking at selected rates.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of telecommunication system features further comprise at least one of call forwarding, speed dial, intercom, call waiting, call holding, voice mail and conference calling.

9. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the central programming controller is selected from a PBX and a key system.

10. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the voice prompts are included in a voice prompt system of the telecommunication system, and the method further including:

using said voice prompt system to answer a telephone call.

11. (Currently amended) A method of program mapping selected ones of a plurality of PBX system features to selected ones of a plurality of telephone buttons on a telephone receiver, the method comprising:

~~prompting using voice prompts to a user at the telephone receiver~~
and the telephone buttons using a first voice prompt;

~~generating said voice prompts by at least one user interface connected to the PBX, the PBX system connecting the telephone receiver to an outside telephone network;~~

receiving a first user input in response to said first voice prompts, said first user input designating whether one of said plurality of telephone buttons is to be programmed;

if one of said plurality of telephone buttons is to be programmed, temporarily deprogramming said plurality of telephone buttons and prompting a user at said local instrument using a second voice prompt to select a one of said plurality of switches to be programmed;

receiving a second user input in response to said second voice prompt, said second user input designating a selected one of said plurality of telephone buttons to be programmed;

determining whether the selected one of said plurality of telephone buttons to be programmed is programmable;

if the selected one of said plurality of telephone buttons to be programmed is not programmable, indicating to the user that selected one of said plurality of telephone buttons to be programmed is not programmable;

if the selected one of said plurality of telephone buttons to be programmed is programmable, prompting a user at said local instrument using a third voice prompt to select a one of said plurality of telecommunication features;

receiving a third user input in response to said third audible prompt, said third user input designating a selected one of said telecommunication features;

said first, second, and third voice prompts being generated by at least one user interface connected to the PBX, the PBX system connecting the telephone receiver to an outside telephone network; and

storing data in a memory of the PBX system in response to said third user input, said data mapping a the selected one of said PBX system features to a the selected one of said plurality of switches telephone buttons on said local instrument.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising:
remotely locating the PBX and the user interface from a user; and

separating the PBX and the user interface from the user by a telephone line.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising:
physically locating the PBX in the same cabinet as at least one telephone in a telecommunications system controlled by the controller.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the telephone receiver further includes one of a FAX, a computer data communications line, and a scanner.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the telephone buttons further comprise switches on a telephone.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein at least one of the switches further includes at least one contact sensitive region of an electronic display.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein at least one of the switches further includes at least one of steady lights, multicolored light, and lights blinking at selected rates.

18. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the PBX system features include at least one of call forwarding, speed dial, intercom, call waiting, call hold, voice mail and conference calling.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Withdrawn) A telephone apparatus having a voice prompting system to allow remote programming of the phone line features, comprising:

a plurality of telephone lines connected to a plurality of telephones in a centrally controlled phone network;

a plurality of phone operating features controlled by a central controller;

each individual one of the operating features selectively provided to any selected one of the plurality of lines;

each individual one of the plurality of telephones having a plurality of buttons, switches and indicator lights;

each individual one of the lines being programmed to obtain selected ones of the plurality of phone operating features by a selected series of button presses of the plurality of buttons; and

wherein the voice prompting system provides selected pre-recorded messages responsive to an order of pressing a portion of the plurality of buttons.

21. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the voice prompting system uses a flashing pattern of selected ones of the plurality of indicator lights to transmit information regarding the selected phone features.

22. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the voice prompting system uses a color of selected ones of the plurality of indicator lights to transmit information regarding the selected phone features.

23. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the voice prompting system uses a flashing pattern and a color of selected ones of the plurality of indicator lights to transmit information regarding the selected phone features.

24. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the voice prompting system uses a voice recognition system to transmit information regarding the selected phone features to the central controller.

25. (Withdrawn) The telephone apparatus of Claim 20, wherein said central controller is a PBX.

26. (Withdrawn) The telephone apparatus of Claim 20, further including:

a telephone answering system using said voice prompting system to respond to an incoming telephone call.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently amended) An apparatus for configuring a telecommunications system, comprising:

a local instrument comprising a plurality of switches;

a central programming controller connecting a local instrument to an outside telephone network; and

one or more programs, performed by the central programming controller, said one or more programs:

prompting a user at said local instrument using at least ~~one~~ a first audible prompt selected from tones, beeps, buzzes and voice prompts to designate whether one of said plurality of switches is to be programmed;

receiving a first user input in response to said at least ~~one~~ first audible prompt, said first user input designating whether one of said plurality of switches is to be programmed;

if one of said plurality of switches is to be programmed, temporarily deprogramming said plurality of switches and prompting a user at said local instrument using a second audible prompt selected from one or more tones, beeps, buzzes, and voice prompts provided by the central controller to select a one of said plurality of switches to be programmed;

receiving a second user input in response to said second audible prompt, said second user input designating a selected one of said plurality of switches to be programmed;

determining whether the selected one of said plurality of switches to be programmed is programmable;

if the selected one of said plurality of switches to be programmed is not programmable, indicating to the user that selected one of said plurality of switches to be programmed is not programmable;

if the selected one of said plurality of switches to be programmed is programmable, prompting a user at said local instrument using a third audible prompt selected from one or more tones, beeps, buzzes, and voice prompts provided by the central controller to select a one of said plurality of telecommunication features;

receiving a third user input in response to said third audible prompt, said third user input designating a selected one of said telecommunication features; and

generating a map mapping a the selected one of a said plurality of telecommunication system features in the central programming controller to a the selected one of the plurality of switches on said local instrument in response to said third user input; and

storing the map in a memory of the central programming controller.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the central programming controller is a PBX.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the central programming controller comprises a voice processing system for said prompting step and for handling incoming calls.